

Webster is to be Sec. of State, apprizing them of it and asking them to break it to the public as they deem best. To appoint both him and Sargeant will give the administration a heavy weight to carry at the South, and if Grainger be added, I shall fear the result. If Mr. Webster would decline, then Davis of Mass. could be appointed (by general consent) Sec. of Treasury, and I have no doubt but Mr. Gaston could be Sec. of State; but he, is said to be, resolved on [not] accepting.

There have been two spirited debates in the Senate which you will see, in relation to a repeal of the Subtreasury, & the state of the Finances, but they have been conducted with remarkable courtesy and decency.

I called a few days since on the President. He bears himself with considerable erection, all things considered, tho' Mr. Clay says "his eyes appear as if he had not slept well, or had been crying one or t'other."

I have taken private quarters with Mangum my only messmate as yet; my brother and Rayner will perhaps join us. I have been out but little, and not extended my acquaintance very far.

I hear from Raleigh that W. B. S.<sup>86</sup> has broken loose quite from the Whigs, and is raving most malignantly at everybody & every thing. From what I learn he has made false representations of me among others, which I may notice in the public prints. But his course seems to have been so generally disgusting that he can do little I presume to the prejudice of any one.

I left so suddenly that I could effect nothing for our friend Manly; untill the Bill to locate the Judges was disposed of, it was impossible to say even who would be candidates. But I was at that time satisfied, that no candidate spoken of, could start in the race with much more than the vote of his own Circuit, and therefore advised that Manly should be put in nomination.

I see from the Raleigh papers that the election was to take place last week. If it shall prove as difficult an affair as it was to elect an Atto. Genl., they will be some time about it.

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<sup>86</sup> William B. Shepard.